

**Spirit of Life Community Adventist Fellowship**  
**Pastor William Dawson**  
**“Trust God’s Authority”**

There should be a marked difference between the ministry of Christ, and those who are just playing games. Religion for some is a good game. Religion pays the bills. Religious displays bring applause. Religion often becomes a trap set by the flesh to glorify itself.

**Luke 20:1-8.** Jesus taught and preached the gospel. His teaching and preaching freed the masses from the control of the religious order of the day. One of the problems I have faced as a Pastor is the battle I have experienced in my own mind against the religious teaching of the day. I have found over and over again, that the only people who are really excited about the preaching, and teaching of Jesus are those believers who are committed to following Him. I have had to battle with my lack of commitment to Jesus, as well as my over commitment to religious teaching.

Religion is not bad. Religion is simply our attempt to bring order, structure, and system to what we understand about relating to God. The problem is we replace God with our religion, or we think God IS our religion. This is where the Jewish leaders made their mistake. Jesus was not limited to their system of understanding God. They really did not know or understand God. As a religious person today, I must be keenly aware of what is driving my religious behavior. Am I in the church because I am afraid of going to hell? (Avoiding hell is not a bad thing). Am I in the church because my parents or others expect me to attend? What are some of the bad reasons for going to church? Think about a time in your life when you have come to church for the wrong reasons? Have you ever approached God for the wrong reasons?

We have to always remember that God is the teacher; we are the students. We try to put pressure on God with our questions, and demands. God cannot be pressured into taking your side. Notice in our text that Jesus did not feel the need or obligation to answer their foolish questions. When you are not ready to be real, you will find it is hard to get an answer from God.

Each of us has to make a decision to follow Christ, or follow those who do not know God. The true authority of Christ can be seen in what He taught and preached. His teaching will change your life forever. If you have areas in your life that have not changed, or refuse to change, what steps can you take to turn around? Exactly what must you do today, to respond in the right way?